

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are the claims that have been examined in the current application. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shoji (US 6,433,341). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoji in view of Tamakoshi et al. (US 6,806,487). By this amendment, Applicant is adding new claims 3-6.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for acknowledging acceptance of the drawings filed October 22, 2003.

Applicant further thanks the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 2, 2004. As noted in the outstanding Office Action, Applicant failed to list the publication dates and inventors for the U.S. references cited on the PTO-1449 form filed October 22, 2003. Applicant submits herewith a new PTO-1449 listing the publication dates and inventors for the U.S. references previously filed on October 22, 2003.

§102(b) Rejection

Claim 1 recites "a reception means for receiving order data for imaging from an external device" as an element of the claimed invention. The Examiner argues that the connection terminal in FIG. 1, of Shoji teaches this aspect of the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization of the connection terminal. The connection terminal in FIG. 1 of Shoji is for outputting the image data stored in the image memory. It does not receive order data for imaging from an external device. Shoji only discusses the connection terminal as outputting

image data, it is not taught as being a receiver of outside data from an external source. Thus, Shoji cannot anticipate claim 1, as it does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable over the applied art.

§103(a) Rejection

Claim 2 recites the radiation detecting cassette of claim 1, which as noted above, is not disclosed by Shoji. Tamakoshi fails to cure the defects of Shoji in relation to the radiation detecting cassette of claim 1.

Additionally, claim 2 recites a sensor for detecting that the radiation detecting cassette has entered an area within a predetermined range of an imaging room where obtainment of a radiation image is performed, as well as a transmission means for receiving a detection signal that the radiation detecting cassette has entered the area within the predetermined range of the imaging room, and transmitting the order data received by the order data reception terminal to the radiation detecting cassette. The Examiner argues that FIG 4., element 24 of Tamakoshi discloses the sensor as defined in claim 2. Element 24 of Tamakoshi is a bar code reader. It does not detect that the radiation detecting cassette has entered an area within a *pre-determined range* of an imaging room. The Examiner also argues that Shoji, FIG. 3, column 9, lines 17-22, discloses the transmission means for receiving a detection signal from the sensor and transmitting the order data received by the order data reception terminal to the radiation detecting cassette. However, Shoji, as discussed above, only discloses a counter, not order data. Moreover, the transmission means in Shoji, as noted by the Examiner, is located on the image detection cassette, not the image data management system, as claimed in claim 2. Claim 2 is patentable as the applied references do not disclose the invention as claimed.

New Claims

New claims 3-6 are dependent from claims 1 and 2, respectively, and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 2.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

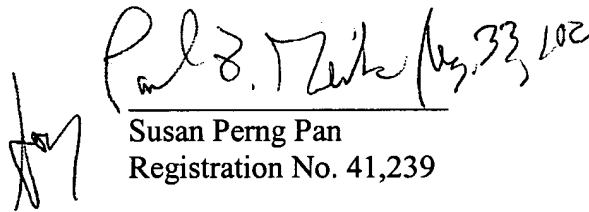
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